

GCG3WILS

Sentence

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----x

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

15 CR 95 (AJN)

5 BRADLEY WILSON,

6 Defendant.

7 -----x

8 New York, N.Y.  
9 December 16, 2016  
12:45 p.m.

10 Before:

11 HON. ALISON J. NATHAN,

12 District Judge

13  
14 APPEARANCES

15 PREET BHARARA

United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York

16 JESSICA FEINSTEIN

Assistant United States Attorney

17 RUHNKE & BARRETT

Attorneys for Defendant

18 JEAN D. BARRETT

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1 THE DEPUTY CLERK: U.S. v. Bradley Wilson. Parties,  
2 please state your name for the record, starting with the  
3 government.

4 MS. FEINSTEIN: Good afternoon, your Honor. Jessica  
5 Feinstein for the government.

6 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

7 MS. BARRETT: Good afternoon, your Honor. Jean  
8 Barrett on behalf of Bradley Wilson, and I ask you please  
9 excuse my voice. It's getting better.

10 THE COURT: Understood. Good afternoon, Ms. Barrett;  
11 good afternoon, Mr. Wilson.

12 THE DEFENDANT: Good afternoon.

13 THE COURT: We're here today for sentencing in United  
14 States v. Bradley Wilson, 15 CR 95.

15 In preparation for today's proceeding I have reviewed  
16 the probation report, which is dated October 4, 2016. I've  
17 also received and reviewed the following additional  
18 submissions: I have the defendant's submission, which the ECF  
19 filing date is December 9, 2016. Attached to the memorandum  
20 are a number of certificates of participation and completion in  
21 various study programs that Mr. Wilson has taken part in while  
22 incarcerated, certificates of achievement as well. And then  
23 there are letters from a number of family members of Mr. Wilson  
24 as well as a reverend and the founder of an organization called  
25 Lead by Example, a program that Mr. Wilson has participated in

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1 while at the MCC, and he's been invited to continue with  
2 following his incarceration. So that's what I have from the  
3 defense. And then I have the government's submission which is  
4 dated December 14, 2016.

5 Counsel, is there anything else I should have in front  
6 of me for purposes of sentencing?

7 MS. BARRETT: Yes, your Honor. On the 14th I believe  
8 I filed or the morning of the 15th I filed a letter on behalf  
9 of Mr. -- that Mr. Wilson wrote.

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 MS. BARRETT: So it is a three-page letter.

12 THE COURT: I do see that now and I had missed it, so  
13 I'm actually going to take a moment to read it. Since it is a  
14 little bit long, I'll step down and do that.

15 MS. BARRETT: Thank you, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: And I'll return shortly.

17 (Recess)

18 THE COURT: Thank you, counsel. I did receive the  
19 December 14 letter from counsel which attached the -- it's  
20 dated December 16th, that must be a mistake. But in any event,  
21 I have the letter from Mr. Wilson that was submitted by counsel  
22 with a cover letter dated December 14, 2016, and I have read  
23 that letter now.

24 Counsel, is there anything else I should have in front  
25 of me for purposes of sentencing?

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1 MS. BARRETT: Not from the defense, your Honor.

2 MS. FEINSTEIN: No, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Can you please confirm you've received  
4 each other's submissions?

5 MS. FEINSTEIN: I have, except for the letter that was  
6 written by the defendant but --

7 THE COURT: It was ECF filed, it's docket number 873.

8 MS. FEINSTEIN: That's fine, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Thank you. All right. Let's turn to the  
10 presentence report. Let me begin with Ms. Barrett. I know you  
11 have, but for the record, have you reviewed the presentence  
12 report and discussed it with your client?

13 MS. BARRETT: I have, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Wilson, did you have an opportunity to  
15 read the presentence report?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.

17 THE COURT: You had an opportunity to raise with your  
18 lawyer any errors in the report or anything else that should be  
19 taken up with me regarding the report?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.

21 THE COURT: Thank you. And Ms. Feinstein, can you  
22 confirm that you read the presentence report as well?

23 MS. FEINSTEIN: I have.

24 THE COURT: So we'll put aside for the moment the  
25 calculation of the sentencing guidelines. Are there any

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1 continuing objections to the report regarding factual accuracy,  
2 Ms. Barrett?

3 MS. BARRETT: Yes, your Honor. With regard to  
4 paragraphs 23 and 27, I raised this in my memorandum, I also  
5 raised it with probation, and probation has put a footnote as  
6 to those two paragraphs. And I would ask that those paragraphs  
7 be removed because there is no -- there has been no factual  
8 submission in support of it.

9 THE COURT: So taking paragraph 23, it I says on  
10 October 2, 2013, at White Plains Road and 232nd Street, Wilson  
11 was arrested after he sold marijuana to an undercover police  
12 officer. And then the footnote notes that defense counsel  
13 maintains that this was a case of mistaken identity and should  
14 be removed from the report.

15 Ms. Feinstein.

16 MS. FEINSTEIN: Your Honor, let's take paragraph 23.  
17 That paragraph is based upon a sealed arrest record which was  
18 produced to the defense as part of discovery. I have a copy  
19 here. I don't think it doesn't say he was convicted of it. It  
20 doesn't -- it simply says he was arrested. Perhaps the wording  
21 could be changed to "on the basis of sale to marijuana" instead  
22 of saying "after he sold" since it is just an arrest record.  
23 Maybe that will take care of the parties' dispute about the  
24 facts.

25 MS. BARRETT: Your Honor, first of all, we did not

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1 receive or review discovery because the plea was entered into  
2 in this case prior to that. I would think that if there were  
3 any documented information, that it should have been supplied  
4 to the Court and counsel as part of the government's  
5 submission. And I would again maintain that this should not  
6 be, because it is not part of his official criminal history in  
7 any way whatsoever. It could be on an index card in whatever  
8 precinct some police officer had an encounter with him. We  
9 don't know. It's not on his criminal history, and there is no  
10 documentation that he was ever convicted of anything or even  
11 processed.

12 THE COURT: Well, so Ms. Feinstein, is it right that  
13 defense didn't -- you have an arrest record in front of you?

14 MS. FEINSTEIN: I do, your Honor, and I'm happy to  
15 provide it. I only have one copy. I can give it to defense  
16 counsel and to your Honor. I will also say this is a pretty  
17 minor point here, I'm not sure --

18 THE COURT: I agree it is a minor point. It is not  
19 going to affect my sentencing. Given that the documentation  
20 that you have is not produced in discovery, or as part of the  
21 written sentencing submissions, my inclination is to strike it  
22 from the report.

23 MS. FEINSTEIN: Understood, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Paragraph 23 will be struck.

25 Turning to 27 which reads: On February 18, 2016,

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1 officers found him, referencing Mr. Wilson, in possession of  
2 marijuana and a kitchen knife during a traffic stop. And then  
3 the footnote responded to defense counsel's objection that the  
4 knife was in fact a small pocketknife and was returned to  
5 Mr. Wilson because the police considered it a tool, not a  
6 weapon. And defense counsel also argues that no marijuana was  
7 found.

8 Ms. Feinstein.

9 MS. FEINSTEIN: We consent to striking that from the  
10 PSR.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. Paragraph 27 will also be  
12 struck. Anything else, Ms. Barrett?

13 MS. BARRETT: That's it, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Thank you. And Ms. Feinstein, any  
15 objections from the government regarding factual accuracy?

16 MS. FEINSTEIN: No, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: With the two noted paragraphs, 23 and 27,  
18 struck, I otherwise adopt the factual recitations set forth in  
19 the PSR. The report will be made a part of the record in this  
20 matter and placed under seal. If an appeal is taken, counsel  
21 on appeal may have access to the sealed report without further  
22 application to this Court.

23 Turning to the guideline calculation, as counsel is  
24 aware, I am no longer required to follow the United States  
25 sentencing guidelines, but I am still required to consider the

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1 applicable guidelines in imposing sentence, and must therefore  
2 accurately calculate the sentencing guideline range.

3 In this case, there was a plea agreement to which the  
4 parties stipulated to a particular calculation of the  
5 sentencing guidelines. Counsel, am I correct that the  
6 calculation in the PSR is in accord with that agreement?

7 MS. BARRETT: It is, your Honor.

8 MS. FEINSTEIN: Yes, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: And I presume no objections?

10 MS. BARRETT: That's correct, your Honor.

11 MS. FEINSTEIN: Correct.

12 THE COURT: Based on the parties' agreement and the  
13 absence of objection and my independent evaluation of the  
14 sentencing guidelines, I do accept the guideline calculation in  
15 the PSR. Accordingly, using the August 1st, 2016 guideline  
16 manual, I do find that the offense level is 27, criminal  
17 history category is I, and the guideline range is 70 to 87  
18 months' imprisonment.

19 Your plea agreement also indicated I believe that  
20 counsel would not seek either an upward or downward departure  
21 within the guideline system, though of course you've reserved  
22 the right to make arguments for a variance, but am I correct  
23 that neither side is seeking an upward or downward departure  
24 within the system?

25 MS. BARRETT: That's correct, your Honor.



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1 MS. FEINSTEIN: That's correct.

2 THE COURT: Nevertheless I've considered whether there  
3 is an appropriate basis for departure from the advisory range  
4 within the guidelines system, and did not find any grounds  
5 warranting departure under the guidelines. Though, as I've  
6 indicated, the parties are free to, and I will hear arguments  
7 regarding a variance.

8 Ms. Feinstein, does the government wish to be heard  
9 with respect to sentencing?

10 MS. FEINSTEIN: Your Honor, we did submit a written  
11 sentencing submission and I will rest on that.

12 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Barrett.

13 MS. BARRETT: Yes, your Honor. Briefly, because we  
14 submitted a pretty comprehensive sentencing submission with  
15 documents with regard to --

16 THE COURT: Ms. Barrett, because your voice is weak  
17 like mine with the cold, if you pull up even closer.

18 MS. BARRETT: How's that? Is that okay?

19 THE COURT: That's better. Thank you.

20 MS. BARRETT: Okay. So, your Honor, and as your Honor  
21 probably knows from our submission, we're asking for a  
22 significant variance, and I understand that it is a significant  
23 variance. And there are two reasons for that variance. One of  
24 them the government acknowledges, and that is that there's been  
25 substantial post-arrest rehabilitation in this case. And the

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1 Supreme Court has ruled in the past that post-arrest  
2 rehabilitation is a significant consideration in terms of  
3 sentencing and can form the basis of variances and  
4 consideration under 3553(a). It fits right into the idea of  
5 character and the character of the accused.

6 The second reason is, and I'm not asking for a  
7 departure based on this, but I'm asking for the Court's  
8 consideration of the fact that there is a dramatic -- still  
9 dramatic disparity in terms of the kinds of sentences that are  
10 imposed on individuals who are charged with distribution of  
11 crack as opposed to regular cocaine powder cocaine.

12 And what I pointed out, and I just wanted to emphasize  
13 to the Court again, is that had Mr. Wilson pled guilty to  
14 280 grams of cocaine, an 18-month sentence would be within the  
15 guidelines. And the fact of the matter is that it has been  
16 well established that the disproportionality of these  
17 guidelines has a serious impact on young men of the  
18 African-American community, and as Mr. Wilson obviously is.  
19 And I would urge the Court to consider that in terms of  
20 fashioning a sentence that is fair and just and proportionate,  
21 and proportionality is one of the important considerations  
22 besides the character of the defendant and the nature of the  
23 offense. Proportionality in sentencing is an important  
24 consideration, and is a consideration under the 3553(a)  
25 factors.

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1           And I would submit that a young man who has committed  
2 no acts of violence, who has been engaged in hand-to-hand  
3 conduct on the street corner in the Bronx in selling crack, it  
4 should not be punished more severely or punished as though he  
5 were a multinational drug importer. I mean, when we talk about  
6 the guideline level of level 30, with the three points of  
7 acceptance of 27, an individual who is responsible for five to  
8 15 kilos of cocaine fits there. Not somebody who is selling  
9 hand-to-hand cocaine on the street, or even at whatever parties  
10 people are in attendance at where cocaine is distributed.

11           I would submit this is a fair and just sentence that  
12 we seek of 18 months, and that it will also enable him to begin  
13 his rehabilitation out on the street. To work with  
14 Mr. Hendrickson on the project, to participate in his  
15 community.

16           And I also wanted to point out, too, the probation  
17 office has emphasized this, the support that he has of his  
18 family. His mom, his dad, and his brother are here today. Are  
19 here today to support him, and they will continue to support  
20 him and to assist him in process of rehabilitation. I only ask  
21 the Court to let that process begin sooner rather than later.  
22 Thank you.

23           THE COURT: A few questions, Ms. Barrett.

24           MS. BARRETT: Certainly.

25           THE COURT: The letter from Mr. Hendrickson that

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1 speaks positively of Mr. Wilson and invites him to participate,  
2 can you give me a sense of what that might look like.

3 MS. BARRETT: The program is a program where offenders  
4 counsel young people in the community and try to set them on a  
5 path, a favorable path. I took some pages out of the website.

6 THE COURT: I assume they had been attached to the  
7 letter.

8 MS. BARRETT: No, it wasn't a -- it was attached to my  
9 letter, your Honor. And the pages in the website refer to  
10 their mission as being the organization was created to help  
11 prepare young people in disadvantaged communities for adulthood  
12 through redirection and empowerment, enhancing communications  
13 and social skills. Our mentors, which Mr. Wilson would be one  
14 of them, help young people become positive, assertive adults  
15 who have a strong sense of self-awareness. Many of our mentors  
16 have lived the life, they're real people with histories and  
17 personal experience of real issues facing young people in  
18 disadvantaged communities today. Our mentors are not academics  
19 coming in to troubled communities to tell young people that  
20 their behavior, whether it be truancy, violence, drugs and  
21 crime, will land them in trouble. Many of our mentors did skip  
22 school, did join gangs, and did commit crimes. All have paid  
23 their dues and don't want others to make the same mistakes.  
24 Our mentors are talking from experience and there is nothing  
25 more powerful than that. More importantly, our mentors want to

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1 give back.

2 And that's basically --

3 THE COURT: But can you give me a -- so my question  
4 is, so Mr. Wilson would presumably serve as a mentor. What  
5 does that mean? Is that sort of weekly involvement, monthly  
6 involvement, does it happen once or twice, does it last for  
7 years? What would it look like?

8 MS. BARRETT: Maybe Mr. Wilson can describe it for  
9 your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Wilson.

11 THE DEFENDANT: The program will serve me, like,  
12 monthly basis as I get to know and be more familiar, talk to  
13 individuals. Probably it will go on for as like a yearly  
14 thing, depending on how good I could present myself to the  
15 people.

16 THE COURT: So, you imagine participating maybe once a  
17 month?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yeah, probably more frequently, as  
19 much as they need me to be.

20 THE COURT: So could be once a week or something like  
21 that?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Right.

23 THE COURT: It would last at least a year?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

25 THE COURT: Assuming you do a good job?

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1 THE DEFENDANT: Right.

2 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Wilson.

3 THE DEFENDANT: You're welcome.

4 MS. BARRETT: Your Honor, we would consent to making  
5 that a condition of supervised release.

6 THE COURT: You anticipated my next question. So, in  
7 the terms of that would include weekly, Mr. Wilson will  
8 participate on a weekly basis with this program and will  
9 continue that for some period of time? Is that what it would  
10 look like?

11 MS. BARRETT: Based on probation's consultation with  
12 Mr. Hendrickson, I would think could be added to that.

13 THE COURT: Okay. I am trying to think creatively.  
14 The number of defendants in this case means that we have a lot  
15 of folks who were members of each other's community were  
16 arrested at the same time, some of whom, depending on the  
17 length of the prison sentence, will all return at the same  
18 time. And I'm hopeful that there are ways of thinking about  
19 interventions to the same patterns just not repeating.  
20 Obviously probation supervision will be important to that, but  
21 I think programs like this may provide some additional  
22 assistance to get folks like Mr. Wilson out of the gang  
23 community, at least try to redirect some of those ties into  
24 non-violent, non-illegal efforts, and this struck me as a  
25 positive one in that regard.

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1           So that's one question, no objection, and on consent  
2           to a condition of supervised release that would require, with  
3           consultation of probation, regular and continued involvement in  
4           this program.

5           MS. BARRETT: Yes, your Honor.

6           THE COURT: The other thing I wanted to ask  
7           Ms. Barrett, obviously Mr. Wilson has no criminal history score  
8           and no prior convictions. Could you address, there are I think  
9           two pending charges and arrests. Could you address those?

10          MS. BARRETT: Yes. I believe that the pending charge  
11          in the city is being dismissed by the district attorney, or has  
12          already been. And in addition to that, it's our understanding  
13          that the Westchester County case will be resolved. I've been  
14          in touch with the lawyer in Westchester County, and she has  
15          told me that it will be resolved following the Court's  
16          imposition of sentence. And we anticipate that that will be a  
17          concurrent state time within the parameters of what the Court  
18          sets here.

19          THE COURT: He does have one prior conviction for  
20          disorderly conduct.

21          MS. BARRETT: Yes, your Honor.

22          THE COURT: That arose out of a drug arrest.

23          MS. BARRETT: Yes, your Honor, and that is within the  
24          confines of this conspiracy.

25          THE COURT: Okay. Otherwise there is no criminal

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1 history.

2 MS. BARRETT: That's correct, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: That is a positive sign and not typical.  
4 Then I think the other point to address, Ms. Barrett, if you  
5 would, it's true that this is hand-to-hand drug selling, but it  
6 is regular and over time, and of course it aided this gang  
7 which is a violent gang. And Mr. Wilson is not a member, but  
8 associated by virtue of his crack sales. And I do think that  
9 increases the level of seriousness of the crime in a way that  
10 requires me to think about, as an appropriate purpose of  
11 punishment, reflecting that seriousness as well as deterrence  
12 and protecting the public.

13 As you know, these neighborhoods were ravaged by the  
14 gang violence and drug sales of this and rival gangs and I have  
15 to make sure that is accurately reflected in all of the  
16 punishments that I impose here.

17 Could you address that.

18 MS. BARRETT: Yes, your Honor. I would emphasize with  
19 the Court the need for individual consideration of the people  
20 involved in this. Mr. Wilson was a young man who was obviously  
21 pretty naive about what he was getting involved in, in my  
22 opinion. And I think that under the circumstances of this  
23 case, certainly drug distribution is a plague of the  
24 communities, of impoverished communities in New York City.  
25 There is no doubt about it. But it's not exclusive to his



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1 neighborhood. It is pretty pervasive throughout the city.

2 And in terms of deterrence, I don't think that an  
3 individual such as Mr. Wilson's punishment is going to act as a  
4 deterrent, have a deterrent effect on what is going on in the  
5 city. I think more important to that is the idea of  
6 rehabilitation. And the idea that there is something called  
7 redemption for individuals, even serious drug offenses.

8 And in terms of the scale of things here, I know that  
9 the government and probation describes Mr. Wilson as midlevel.  
10 I don't really understand what that is. It's kind of like the  
11 whole naming names of something that have little or no meaning  
12 or context. Here, we're talking about -- if you're talking  
13 about a drug community, we're talking putting him on the lowest  
14 rung of the ladder. There is nobody lower than the person who  
15 is selling hand-to-hand on the corner. He is on the bottom of  
16 this pile.

17 And with regard to his rehabilitative efforts, I think  
18 it is more important to encourage those than it is to set an  
19 artificial example of him. I'm not saying that there aren't  
20 people who should have examples set. I represent a lot of  
21 people like that. And there are many people in this indictment  
22 who have been engaged in violent criminal activity. He has  
23 not.

24 He got picked up, scooped up in a much larger  
25 investigation. And that investigation, while he as a matter of

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1 course, if you're going to sell drugs in the territory of a  
2 gang, you are going to have to get your drugs from the gang.  
3 You're not going to be able to get your drugs from Joe Schmo  
4 and go out and sell it in their territory.

5 So obviously drug distribution is a serious offense,  
6 that's why we're here in federal court, that's why he's facing  
7 serious time. But it doesn't mean that that has to be imposed.  
8 And it doesn't mean that his rehabilitative efforts should not  
9 be encouraged by letting him return to his community within a  
10 reasonable period of time.

11 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Barrett.

12 Ms. Feinstein, can you address the terminological  
13 significance point that Ms. Barrett is making about midlevel  
14 drug dealer? What would be a lower-level drug dealer in this  
15 case or otherwise?

16 MS. FEINSTEIN: Absolutely, your Honor. Here I think  
17 midlevel is not a technical term, Judge. It is in comparison  
18 with other individuals in this case. He wasn't selling  
19 wholesale drugs to other drug dealers, so he is not a  
20 high-level drug dealer, we'll put it that way. He also was not  
21 someone who on one or two occasions sold a few bags of crack.  
22 This is someone who was arrested, you know, you can see on  
23 paragraph 26 of the PSR and paragraph 25 of the PSR and  
24 paragraph 22, with significant quantities of crack on him. 22  
25 bags of crack on one occasion, 11 on another, 29 on another.

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1 That's not like four or five, that's not just a few here or  
2 there. This is someone who is regularly out there selling, and  
3 those amounts, even if you're just a hand-to-hand dealer, which  
4 I don't think we dispute, they add up. Those are significant  
5 quantities.

6 This is someone who is, you know, his livelihood was  
7 selling crack, and he was doing it under the protection of a  
8 gang, a violent gang, and benefiting the gang by doing so. So,  
9 that's why we think the term "midlevel" applies.

10 THE COURT: So, are there lower-level drug dealers in  
11 this case?

12 MS. FEINSTEIN: I believe there are, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: So --

14 MS. FEINSTEIN: Including, for example, marijuana  
15 dealers. I think it's hard to dispute that crack is a more  
16 serious drug.

17 THE COURT: So he is midlevel as compared to folks who  
18 sold either different types or quantity of drugs, at least as  
19 you have evidence to establish.

20 MS. FEINSTEIN: Yes. And your Honor, there are  
21 obviously lots of mitigating factors here and we recognize  
22 those. We merely wanted to give the Court some context for  
23 where he fits in the scheme of things.

24 THE COURT: I appreciate that. Every sentencing, of  
25 course, is individualized, but I'm also required to ensure that

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1 there are not sentencing disparities, and I do think it's  
2 important when I have 63 defendants in a case, some significant  
3 number of whom are pleading guilty and I'm in the process of  
4 sentencing to understand relative culpability as a factor in  
5 the 3553(a) context. Though not solely, and the government I  
6 think rightly concedes here that Mr. Wilson is -- I don't know  
7 if you'll prove to be unusual, but I'm heartened by some of the  
8 rehabilitation that I see in you, Mr. Wilson, as well as the  
9 support of your family who are here and wrote to me. It gives  
10 me hope. And your lack of criminal history. These are  
11 important factors as I try to determine what a reasonable  
12 sentence for you is.

13 Counsel, anything else from you?

14 MS. BARRETT: Your Honor, just in terms of just to  
15 clarify what you're talking about in terms of bags. A bag for  
16 sale of crack is a 10th of a gram. You know, it's not like --  
17 so if you're taking 22 bags of crack, you're talking about  
18 2 grams. So, it's still a relatively small amount for somebody  
19 to be walking around with on the street. And I have nothing  
20 further to add to that discussion other than to say that --

21 THE COURT: The overall quantity here as allocuted to,  
22 there's no dispute, right?

23 MS. BARRETT: Correct, your Honor. And that's  
24 obviously over a lengthy period of time during the course of  
25 the conspiracy when he joined the conspiracy.

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1 THE COURT: Right.

2 MS. BARRETT: Which is obviously later than a lot of  
3 others. So, you know, we are not disputing quantity. And but,  
4 we do dispute the appropriateness of using that kind of  
5 quantity to enhance the sentence by 28 times or enhance the  
6 guidelines by 28 times. That is clearly something that we  
7 dispute in terms of what the appropriateness of sentencing  
8 here.

9 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Mr. Wilson, I have  
10 read your letter that you submitted to the Court, but you're  
11 also welcome to make an oral statement to the Court if you'd  
12 like to do so.

13 THE DEFENDANT: Okay, I will.

14 I apologize to you, Ms. Judge Nathan, to the Court, to  
15 my family right here, for all the the wrongdoings I've done in  
16 my past. And I ask that -- I know that there's no excuse for  
17 what I've done, even me being financially unstable and going to  
18 school, struggling with school, but I ask that I may have a  
19 second chance and mercy with my sentencing, that I may become a  
20 more -- more upstanding citizen in the community back in  
21 society. And I could change my acts and change the way I do  
22 things, and those situations and approach situations and I  
23 could be more -- more -- have a more brighter future than I  
24 have now. Thank you.

25 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Wilson.

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1 Counsel, any reason why sentence should not be imposed  
2 at this time?

3 MS. BARRETT: No, your Honor.

4 MS. FEINSTEIN: No, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: As I've stated, the guideline range  
6 applicable to this cases is 70 to 87 months' imprisonment.  
7 Under the Supreme Court's decision in *Booker* and its progeny,  
8 the guideline range is only one factor that the Court must  
9 consider in deciding the appropriate sentence. I'm also  
10 required to consider the other factors set forth in 18 U.S.C.  
11 Section 3553(a).

12 These include the nature and circumstances of the  
13 offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant,  
14 the need for the sentence imposed to reflect the seriousness of  
15 the offense, to promote respect for the law, and to provide  
16 just punishment for the offense, to afford adequate deterrence  
17 to criminal conduct, to protect the public from further crimes  
18 of the defendant, to provide the defendant with needed  
19 educational or vocational training, medical care or other  
20 treatment. I am to take into account the kinds of sentences  
21 available, as I've said, the guideline range and any pertinent  
22 policy statement, and the need to avoid unwarranted sentence  
23 disparities, and the need to provide restitution to any victims  
24 of the offense. I am required to impose a sentence sufficient,  
25 but no greater than necessary, to comply with the purposes I've

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Sentence

1 just described.

2 I have given substantial thought and attention to the  
3 appropriate sentence in this case, in light of the 3553(a)  
4 factors and the appropriate purposes of sentencing as reflected  
5 in the statute.

6 Mr. Wilson does stand convicted of what is  
7 unquestionably a serious offense. He did associate himself  
8 with the Big Money Bosses gang, which is a violent street gang  
9 that operated in the Bronx in this particular neighborhood.  
10 Big Money Bosses or BMB, as it's referred to, trafficked in  
11 narcotics including crack cocaine, marijuana, and other drugs,  
12 also the gang kept firearms and engaged in acts of violence,  
13 including shootings, stabbing, and gang assaults. BMB has a  
14 violent culture and it has a norm against snitching and  
15 cooperating. And at base it is a dangerous, dangerous street  
16 gang.

17 Mr. Wilson was an associate of that gang, not a  
18 member. But as an associate, he was a frequent drug dealer.  
19 He's been described here as a midlevel drug dealer. He was a  
20 street dealer, but this was not a one-off or a short-term  
21 mistake. He sold crack cocaine, which is certainly a dangerous  
22 drug, over a period of time and with frequency. At the time of  
23 his arrest, he was found with 22 bags of crack packaged for  
24 distribution. He did regularly sell crack at the gang  
25 controlled area called the Forts. This gang ravaged the areas

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Sentence

1 it occupied with dangerous drugs and violence.

2           Given Mr. Wilson's role in the conspiracy, that is of  
3 a drug dealer that helped facilitate this gang's activities,  
4 and he participated over a period of time and with frequency  
5 selling crack cocaine, I do believe that a serious sentence is  
6 warranted to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to deter  
7 Mr. Wilson and others, to promote respect for the law, and to  
8 protect the public.

9           However, I must and I do take into account the history  
10 and characteristics of this defendant. As a preliminary  
11 matter, I note that Mr. Wilson pled guilty to this offense, he  
12 did so early on. He has accepted responsibility. I believe  
13 that his expression of remorse and acceptance of responsibility  
14 both as reflected in what he said to me in court today and  
15 what's written in his letter, is genuine. And I am putting  
16 some reliance on my own ability as best as I can to discern  
17 genuine acceptance of responsibility, and I'm crediting  
18 Mr. Wilson here with that.

19           Moreover, Mr. Wilson does not have an extensive  
20 criminal history. And there is no violence as charged, there  
21 is a lot of violence in the indictment with respect to the gang  
22 and many members, many co-defendants of Mr. Wilson. No  
23 allegations of violent activity with respect to Mr. Wilson.  
24 And his lack of criminal history I do think is significant, and  
25 that is in contrast with many others who have been charged



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Sentence

1 here.

2           There are also some very, as I've indicated and as has  
3 been discussed, have been very positive post-arrest signs of  
4 rehabilitation. Including, I'm encouraged by his involvement  
5 in the Lead by Example program as well as his what seems to be  
6 a continuing commitment to education. Mr. Wilson does have  
7 education, he's expressed interest in continuing that as well  
8 as in job training and seeking employment.

9           I think those are going to be critical steps for you  
10 to continue taking, Mr. Wilson, upon your release.

11           The involvement of his family, as I've said, who wrote  
12 to me and who are here today, his parents, I think these are  
13 encouraging signs, signs of support that Mr. Wilson will have  
14 following his incarceration as he takes steps towards  
15 decisions, unlike the ones that he made that led him here, but  
16 hopefully towards, as he said, a more productive involvement in  
17 his community, and a more positive and productive life.

18           And in this regard, I have read carefully the letters  
19 and other submissions on Mr. Wilson's behalf from his family  
20 members. And I do think they help establish in my mind that  
21 Mr. Wilson does have potential, as I've said, based on his  
22 interest in education and employment, and he has the loving  
23 support of his family members. I am heartened by this. And  
24 hope that it all continues in the future.

25           In sum, although I am convinced that this is a serious

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Sentence

1 sentence and I do believe in the necessity of reflecting the  
2 seriousness in light of the damage to the community done by  
3 this gang, done by crack cocaine sales, I do believe a  
4 significant variance downward is important. But the sentence  
5 must also reflect the seriousness of the crime and deter  
6 others.

7 I will now state the sentence I intend to impose.  
8 Mr. Wilson, will you please rise.

9 It is judgment of this Court that you're remanded to  
10 the custody of the bureau of prisons for 24 months to be  
11 followed by a period of three years of supervised release. You  
12 may be seated.

13 During your term of supervised release, the standard  
14 conditions of supervision shall apply. In addition, you'll be  
15 subject to the following mandatory conditions: You shall not  
16 commit another federal, state or local crime; you shall not  
17 illegally possess a controlled substance; you shall not possess  
18 a firearm or destructive device. The mandatory drug testing  
19 condition will be suspended because I'll be imposing a special  
20 condition requiring drug treatment and testing. You shall  
21 cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation  
22 officer.

23 In addition, the following special conditions must be  
24 met: You shall participate in an outpatient treatment program  
25 approved by the United States probation office, which program

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Sentence

1 may include testing to determine whether you've reverted to  
2 using drugs or alcohol. You'll be subject to the search term  
3 that's outlined on page 29 of the presentence report. You'll  
4 report to the nearest probation office within 72 hours of  
5 release. And I do recommend you be supervised in your district  
6 of residence.

7 In addition, as we've discussed, I am going to make it  
8 a condition of supervision that you do maintain your  
9 participation in the Lead by Example program. Of course this  
10 will be with consultation with the probation officer, as well  
11 as Mr. Hendrickson, the leader of this program. But it would  
12 be anticipated that Mr. Wilson would have weekly participation  
13 in the program, and that it would continue during the period of  
14 his supervision. Again, though, pending consultation with  
15 Mr. Hendrickson and the probation office, but it will otherwise  
16 be a term of supervision.

17 I will waive the fine as I don't believe defendant has  
18 the ability to pay the fine.

19 Ms. Feinstein, nothing here with regard to forfeiture  
20 or restitution?

21 MS. FEINSTEIN: No, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: I am imposing a mandatory special  
23 assessment of \$100 which shall be due immediately.

24 Does either counsel know of any legal reason why the  
25 sentence shall not be imposed as stated?

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Sentence

1 MS. FEINSTEIN: No, your Honor.

2 MS. BARRETT: No, your Honor. Thank you.

3 THE COURT: The sentence as stated is imposed. I do  
4 find that it is sufficient, but no greater than necessary, to  
5 satisfy the sentencing purposes that I've described earlier.

6 I will say again for the record that the sentence that  
7 I am imposing, the significance of the variance here turns in  
8 particular on Mr. Wilson's lack of criminal history, the  
9 support of his family members, his participation in this Lead  
10 by Example program, and my judgment, and that is at the end of  
11 the day what I'm left with, Mr. Wilson, that this will be a  
12 significant life changing experience for you. And that while I  
13 see many people, many defendants involved in drug narcotics  
14 activity who continue to repeat those choices, I am placing  
15 some faith in you that, with the support of your family, that  
16 will not be the case here.

17 And though I don't doubt you'll face difficulties,  
18 financial and otherwise, going forward, you will make better  
19 choices for you and for your family.

20 When you are released and on supervised release,  
21 Mr. Wilson, you will have the guidance and support of the  
22 probation department as you reestablish your day-to-day life  
23 during your period of supervision. Do take advantage of those  
24 resources, as the folks in probation are committed to helping  
25 you succeed.

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Sentence

1           That said, I must caution you, you must comply  
2 strictly with all of the conditions of your supervised release  
3 that I've imposed. If you're brought back before me for a  
4 violation of those conditions, I may sentence you to another  
5 term of imprisonment. I hope and I expect you won't put me to  
6 that decision.

7           Ms. Barrett, any requests regarding designation or  
8 otherwise?

9           MS. BARRETT: Just designation in the most appropriate  
10 facility as close as possible to his family, your Honor. I  
11 don't think -- the bureau of prisons is the bureau of prisons.

12          THE COURT: Yes. Well, I will recommend that he be  
13 considered for placement -- his family is in the New York City  
14 area?

15          MS. BARRETT: That's correct.

16          THE COURT: For placement in a facility as close to  
17 the New York City area as possible to help facilitate  
18 maintenance of ties with his family.

19          MS. BARRETT: Thank you, your Honor.

20          THE COURT: Ms. Feinstein, are there remaining counts  
21 or underlying indictments that need to be dismissed at this  
22 time?

23          MS. FEINSTEIN: We move to dismiss all open counts.

24          THE COURT: Granted.

25          Mr. Wilson, I see no basis for an appeal. But I am

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Sentence

1 required to inform you of your appellate rights. To the extent  
2 that you have not given up your right to appeal your conviction  
3 and sentence through your plea of guilty, and the agreement  
4 that you entered into with the government in connection with  
5 that plea, you do have the right to appeal. If you are unable  
6 to pay the cost of an appeal, you may apply for leave to appeal  
7 in forma pauper. The notice of appeal must be filed within 14  
8 days of the judgment of conviction.

9 Counsel, is there anything else I can address at this  
10 time?

11 MS. BARRETT: No, thank you, your Honor.

12 MS. FEINSTEIN: No, thank you.

13 THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Wilson, good luck to you,  
14 sir.

15 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you. God bless you, Judge  
16 Nathan.

17 THE COURT: You too.

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